

GLOSSARY

AKTION (German) A violent operation against Jewish (or other) civilians by German security forces that included the forced deportation of Jewish civilians to killing centers in German-occupied Poland (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

ALLIES The nations fighting Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II; primarily the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

ANNEX A term that was often used during the Holocaust as a hidden area within which Jews lived in hiding.

ANSCHLUSS (German) Annexation of Austria by Germany on March 13, 1938 (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

ANTISEMITISM Prejudice and/or discrimination towards Jews, based on negative perceptions of their beliefs (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

APPEL (German) Roll call (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

ARYAN RACE Term used in Nazi Germany to refer to non-Jewish and non-Gypsy Caucasians. Northern Europeans with especially "Nordic" features such as blonde hair and blue eyes were considered by so-called race scientists to be the most superior of Aryans, members of a "master race." (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014)

AUSCHWITZ Auschwitz was the site of one of the largest extermination camps. In August 1942 the camp was expanded and eventually consisted of three sections: Auschwitz I - the main camp; Auschwitz II (Birkenau) - the extermination camp; Auschwitz III (Monowitz) - the I.G. Farben labor camp, also known as Buna. In addition, Auschwitz had 48 sub camps. It became the largest center for Jewish extermination. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

AXIS The Axis powers originally included Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan who signed a pact in Berlin on September 27, 1940. They were later joined by Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, and Slovakia. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

BAR/BAT MITZVAH A Jewish coming of age ritual for boy so at age 12 and girls age 13 in which they become accountable for their actions and considered able to understand the Torah.

BELZEC One of the six extermination camps in Poland. Originally established in 1940 as a camp for Jewish forced labor, the Germans began construction of an extermination camp at Belzec on November

1, 1941, as part of Aktion Reinhard. By the time the camp ceased operations in January 1943, more than 600,000 persons had been murdered there. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

BERGEN-BELSEN A Nazi concentration camp located in northern Germany that was established in 1943. Although this camp was designated for persons who were slated to be exchanged with German nationals in Allied countries, only a few of the Jews who were brought to Bergen-Belsen were actually set free by the Germans. At the end of 1944 and early in 1945, thousands of Jewish prisoners who were forcibly marched from the east began arriving in the camp. Due to the deteriorating conditions, a typhus epidemic broke out and by mid-April 1945, 35,000 prisoners had perished. On April 5, 1945, the camp was liberated by British forces, who were appalled to find most of the 60,000 inmates in critical condition. During the next five days, 14,000 prisoners died, and in the following weeks, another 14,000 perished. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

BUCHENWALD A concentration camp established in 1937 near Weimar, Germany. While it was primarily a labor camp in the German concentration camp system and not an extermination center, thousands died there from exposure, over-work, and execution. Many Jews from other camps were forcibly marched there by the Nazis in early 1945. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

BUNKER A ditch, trench or underground shelter used by soldiers

BYSTANDER One who is present at an event or who knows about its occurrence without participating in it (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

CHELMNO An extermination camp established in late 1941 in the Warthegau region of Western Poland, 47 miles west of Lodz. It was the first camp where mass executions were carried out by means of gas. A total of 320,000 people were exterminated at Chelmno. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

CIVIL RIGHTS A civil right is an enforceable right or privilege, which if interfered with by another gives rise to an action for injury. Examples of civil rights are freedom of speech, press, and assembly; the right to vote; freedom from involuntary servitude; and the right to equality in public places. Discrimination occurs when the civil rights of an individual are denied or interfered with because of their membership in a particular group or class. (Cornell University Law School) The Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice was created in 1957. The Division enforces federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status and national origin. (Cornell University Law School)

COMMUNISM A political and economic system that promotes holding all assets and property in collective ownership.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS Camps established by the Nazi regime, which eventually became a major instrument of terror, control, punishment, and killing performed through both deliberate means as

well as attrition by hunger and/or disease (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

CREMATORIUM/CREMATORIA Furnaces used to cremate bodies. During the Holocaust, crematoria were installed in several camps, among them the extermination camps and the Theresienstadt ghetto. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

CURFEW An order specifying a time after which certain regulations apply. One of the first wartime ordinances imposed a strict curfew on Jewish individuals and prohibited Jews from entering designated areas in many German cities. Similar curfews were instated in many German-occupied countries throughout the Holocaust. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014)

DACHAU A concentration camp located in Upper Bavaria, northeast of Munich that began operating in 1933. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

DEATH CAMPS Nazi camps for the mass killing of Jews and others (e.g. Gypsies, Russian prisoners-of-war, ill prisoners). These included: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. All were located in occupied Poland. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

DEATH MARCH Referring to the forced marches of Nazi camp prisoners toward the German interior at the end of World War II. Such marches began when the German armed forces, trapped between the Soviets to the east and the advancing Allied troops from the west, attempted to prevent the liberation of camp inmates in the harsh winter of 1945. Treated with tremendous brutality during the forced marches, thousands were shot or died of starvation or exhaustion. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

DEMOCRACY A system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free election (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

DEPORTATION The deportation was the forced relocation of Jews, in Nazi occupied countries, from their homes to “resettle” elsewhere. It meant removal either to a ghetto or a concentration camp and later to extermination camps. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

DER STURMER (The Attacker) An antisemitic German weekly, founded and edited by Julius Streicher, and published in Nuremberg between 1923 and 1945. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center) (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

DISCRIMINATION The denial of justice and fair treatment by both individuals and institutions in many arenas, including employment, education, housing, banking, and political rights. Discrimination is an action that can follow prejudicial thinking. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

DISPLACED PERSON/DISPLACED PERSONS' CAMP (DP CAMP) Camps set up after World War II in Austria, Germany, and Italy as temporary living quarters for the tens of thousands of homeless people created by the war. Many survivors of the Holocaust who had no home or country to which they could return were among the displaced persons. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

EDICT An edict is an announcement of a law, often associated with monarchism.

EINSATZGRUPPEN (German) Mobile killing units of the German Security Police and SD augmented by Order Police and Waffen-SS personnel.

These units followed the German army as it invaded the nations of central and Eastern Europe. Their duties included the arrest or murder of political opponents and potential resistance. In Poland in 1939, these units were assigned to shoot Polish intellectuals and to concentrate the Jewish population into large cities. After the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Einsatzgruppen personnel killed Jews, Soviet political commissars, Gypsies (Roma), mentally disabled persons, and other perceived "racial" and ideological enemies, usually by mass shootings. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014)

EUTHANASIA "euthanasia" (literally, "good death") usually refers to the inducement of a painless death for a chronically or terminally ill individual. In Nazi usage, however, "euthanasia" was a euphemistic term for a clandestine program which targeted for systematic killing institutionalized mentally and physically disabled patients, without their consent or the consent of their families. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014) Referring to the Nazi order for the deliberate extermination of German people institutionalized with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, carried out as a measure to prevent contamination of the Nazi-defined Aryan race. The Euthanasia Program began in 1939. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

EVIAN CONFERENCE Conference convened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in July 1938 to discuss the problem of refugees. Thirty-two countries met at Evian-les-Bains, France. However, not much was accomplished, since most western countries were reluctant to accept Jewish refugees. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

EXTERMINATION CAMPS A Nazi facility where victims were killed on a mass industrialized scale and their bodies burned or buried in mass graves. The Nazis operated six extermination camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

FACISM a political movement that exalts the collective nation, and often race, above the individual and that advocates: a centralized totalitarian state headed by a charismatic leader; expansion of the nation, preferably by military force; forcible suppression and sometimes physical annihilation of

opponents both real and perceived. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014)

FINAL SOLUTION A Nazi code phrase referring to their systematic plan to murder every Jewish man, woman, and child in Europe. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005) Beginning in December 1941, Jews were rounded up and sent to extermination camps in the East. The program was deceptively disguised as “resettlement in the East.” (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

FOOD RATION Rationing is the controlled distribution of scarce resources, goods, or services. Rationing controls the size of the ration, one's allotted portion of the resources being distributed on a particular day or at a particular time. Another form of rationing was employed during World War II, “Ration Stamps.” These were redeemable stamps or coupons. Every family was issued a set number of each kind of stamp based on the size of the family, ages of children and income. This allowed the Allies and mainly America to supply huge amounts of food to the troops and later provided a surplus to aid in the rebuilding of Europe with aid to Germany after food supplies were destroyed. Nearly all food was rationed in Europe during World War II in both occupied zones and liberated areas.

GAS CHAMBERS The Nazis first began using poison gas as a means for mass murder in December 1939, when an SS Sonderkommando unit used carbon monoxide to suffocate Polish mental patients. In the summer of 1941, the Germans commenced murdering Jews en masse in a systematic fashion. After several months, it became clear to them that the mass murder method they had previously employed, of shooting, was neither quick nor efficient enough to serve their needs. Thus, based on the experience gained in the Euthanasia Program, they began using gas chambers to annihilate European Jewry. The Nazis continued to search for a more efficient method of mass murder. After some experimentation on Soviet prisoners of war, the Nazis found a commercial insecticide called Zyklon B to be an appropriate gas for their needs. All of these gas chambers utilized Zyklon B to kill their victims. (Yad Vashem)

GENOCIDE The deliberate and systematic destruction of a religious, racial, national, or cultural group. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

GESTAPO German acronym for *Geheime Staatspolizei* - Secret State Police. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center) The Nazi Secret State Police were directly involved in implementing the murder of Jews and other Nazi victims during the Holocaust. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

GHETTO An Italian word, it refers to a quarter or street separated from the other parts of the city, in which Jews lived in the Middle Ages. The Nazis revived the Italian medieval ghetto and created their compulsory “Jewish Quarter” (Wohnbezirk), where all Jews from the surrounding areas were forced to reside. All ghettos were eventually liquidated and the Jews, Gypsies and others were deported to extermination camps. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

GYPSIES A collective term often used for Sinti and Roma communities living throughout Eastern

Europe since the fifteenth century. They were considered an asocial element by the Nazis and persecuted. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

HATE CRIME A hate crime is a traditional offense like murder, arson, or vandalism with an added element of bias. For the purposes of collecting statistics, Congress has defined a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation." (The Federal Bureau of Investigation)

HITLER YOUTH The Nazi Party's compulsory (after 1939) youth movement, which emphasized physical training, Nazi ideology, and absolute obedience to Hitler and the Nazi Party. Youth were subject to intensive propaganda regarding racial and national superiority. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

HOLOCAUST Derived from the Greek word, *holokauston*, "an offering consumed by fire," has a sacrificial connotation to what occurred. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center) The Holocaust is the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims -- six million were murdered; Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), people with mental and physical disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi Germany. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

INFIRMARY An area that cares for sick or injured people.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES A religious sect that originated in the United States and had about 20,000 members in Germany in 1933. Their religious beliefs did not allow them to swear allegiance to any worldly power, making them enemies in the eyes of the Nazi state. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

JEWISH BADGE A distinctive sign which Jews were compelled to wear in Nazi Germany and in Nazi-occupied countries. It took the form of a yellow Star of David or an armband with a Star of David on it. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

JUDENRAT Council of Jewish representatives in communities and ghettos set up by the Nazis to carry out their instructions. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

JUDENREIN A Nazi term meaning "cleansed of Jews," denoting areas where all Jews had been either murdered or deported. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

KAPO From Italian *Capo*, meaning: head, chief. An inmate (male or female) in a position of authority in Nazi concentration camps. The Kapo was in charge of a group of inmates and carried out the instructions of SS supervisors. They made sure that prisoners performed their tasks and met the quotas. The Kapo

was the Nazis' instrument to humiliate and brutalize the prisoners. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

KINDERTRANSPORT (German) Following the Kristallnacht pogrom, the British government's responded by allowing 10,000 Jewish children to enter Great Britain. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005) Many children from the children's transport program became citizens of Great Britain, or emigrated to Israel, the United States, Canada, and Australia. Most of them would never again see their parents, who were murdered during the Holocaust. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2015)

KRISTALLNACHT (German) An organized pogrom against Jews in Germany and Austria on November 9-10, 1938. *Kristallnacht* is also known as the "Night of Broken Glass" or "Crystal Night." Orchestrated by the Nazis in retaliation for the assassination of a German embassy official in Paris by a seventeen-year-old Jewish youth named Herchel Grynszpan. 1,400 synagogues and 7,000 businesses were destroyed. Almost 100 Jews were killed and 30,000 were arrested then sent to concentration camps. German Jews were subsequently held financially responsible for the destruction wrought upon their property during this pogrom. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

LABOR CAMP Nazi Germany exploited the labor of the occupied peoples from the onset of the occupation. More than 14 million people and 2.5 million prisoners of war were transported to Germany for labor. Jews were enslaved and interned in a far-reaching network of forced-labor camps across Europe, in the Reich itself, in the west and, foremost, in the east. The SS Central Office for Administration and Economy defined the new goal: labor exploitation of concentration camp prisoners, who would be taken to hundreds of labor camps for service on behalf of the German war machine. Employing the Jews in forced labor did not signify a change in the overall plan of extermination. Economic needs and the prolonging of the war established the need to utilize the Jews as a labor force. However, this was only a temporary setback in the extermination process – extermination by means of merciless forced labor. 'Extermination by labor' – as this "compromise" was called between those who called for immediate extermination and those who sought to exploit Jewish labor until their very end. (Yad Vashem)

LIBERATION The process of an army driving conquerors out of an occupied territory. Holocaust survivors and citizens of occupied Europe used the word "liberation" to refer to the moment they were freed from German control. Individuals and/or nations involved in the liberation are referred to as "liberators." (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

LODZ Poland's second largest city where the first major ghetto was created in April 1940. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

MAUTHAUSEN A Nazi camp for men, opened in August 1938, near Linz in northern Austria. Mauthausen was classified as a camp of utmost severity. Nearly 120,000 prisoners of various nationalities were either worked or tortured to death at the camp before American troops liberated it in

May 1945. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

MAJDANEK Mass murder camp in eastern Poland. At first a labor camp for Poles and a POW camp for Russians, it was turned into a gassing center for Jews. Majdanek was liberated by the Red Army in July 1944. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

MEMOIR A written account in which someone describes past experiences, a written account of someone or something that is usually based on personal knowledge of the subject

MISCHLINGE In German this word has the general meaning of “hybrid,” “mongrel,” or “half-breed”. In the Third Reich the term was used to denote people who were of partial Aryan ancestry.

MONARCHY A monarchy is a form of government in which sovereignty is actually or nominally embodied in a single individual (the monarch.)

MUSSELMANN (German) Nazi camp slang word for a prisoner on the brink of death. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

NATIONALISM A sense of national consciousness with primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

NAZI Short for *Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiter-Partei* (N.S.D.A.P.), the political party that emerged in Munich after World War I. The party was taken over by Adolf Hitler in the early 1920s. The swastika was the party symbol. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

NAZI IDEOLOGY or NAZI RACIAL IDEOLOGY The Nazi system of beliefs, based on a racial view of the world. According to Nazi ideology, the Nordic Aryan Germans were the “master race.” Other races were inferior to them and the Jews were considered to be the “anti-race,” the exact opposite of the Germans, and an evil and destructive race. Germans were said to be the natural rulers of the world and, in order to achieve that position, influence of the Jews needed to be ended. Thus, racial antisemitism and a solution to the so-called “Jewish Question” lay at the heart of Nazi ideology, as did the desire for more territory or *Lebensraum* (living space.) (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

NEUTRAL/NEUTRALITY The state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement or war

NUREMBERG LAWS Two anti-Jewish statutes enacted September 1935 during the Nazi party's national convention in Nuremberg. The first, the Reich Citizenship Law, deprived German Jews of their citizenship and all rights pertinent thereto. The second, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor, outlawed marriages of Jews and non-Jews, forbade Jews from employing German females of childbearing age, and prohibited Jews from displaying the German flag. Many additional regulations

were attached to the two main statutes, which provided the basis for removing Jews from all spheres of German political, social, and economic life. The Nuremberg Laws carefully established definitions of Jewishness based on bloodlines. Thus, many Germans of mixed ancestry, called “Mischlinge,” faced antisemitic discrimination if they had a Jewish grandparent. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

PALESTINE The Roman term for what is now Israel; the name used by the British during World War II to denote the area they held under a League of Nations mandate. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

PARTISANS Traditionally means “irregular troops engaged in guerrilla warfare, often behind enemy lines.” During World War II, this term was applied to resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied countries. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

PASSOVER The celebration of the Jewish people’s freedom from Egyptian bondage that took place approximately 3,500 years ago, as told in the first fifteen chapters of the biblical Book of Exodus. The celebration is organized into a feast called the Passover Seder. The word “seder” means “order” or “procedure” in Hebrew and refers to the order of historical events recalled in the Passover meal as well as the meal itself. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

PILLAGE The act of looting or plundering especially in war.

PREJUDICE Prejudging or making a decision about a person or group of people without sufficient knowledge. Prejudicial thinking is frequently based on stereotypes. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

POGROM Originally a Russian word meaning “devastation” used to describe organized, large-scale acts of violence against Jewish communities, especially the kind instigated by the authorities in Czarist Russia. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem)

PROPAGANDA False or partly false information used by a government or political party intended to sway the opinions of the population. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

QUAKER The Quaker movement, also called the Society of Friends, was founded in England during the middle of the 17th century. The group took its name from the “quaking” that is sometimes associated with the agitation of religious feeling. After Kristallnacht, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) became the main source of support for the non-sectarian Committee for Refugee Children and its successor, the non-sectarian Foundation for Refugee Children. Both were established in 1940 to help refugees—primarily Jewish children—resettle from Europe to the United States. Because of the involvement of the AFSC in relief services throughout Europe before World War II, the Nazis treated the Quakers with respect and permitted them to continue welfare activities in southern France during the occupation. The AFSC cooperated closely with Jewish welfare agencies, including the American

Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and provided assistance to Jewish refugees in France, Spain, and Portugal. The actions of the AFSC showed that interfaith activity on behalf of European Jews could be successful. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

RABBI Jewish spiritual leader, teacher

RACISM The practice of discrimination, segregation, persecution, and domination of a group based on that group's race. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

RED ARMY The army and air force of the Soviet Union

REFUGEE One who flees or is deported in search of safety, as in times of war, political oppression, or religious persecution (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

RESISTANCE A group's action in opposition to those in power; during the Holocaust, Jews exhibited cultural, spiritual, and armed resistance to the Nazi regime (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

RESCUER A person who made the choice to risk their own life to save the life of another

RESPONSIBILITY An accountability, duty, concern or obligation.

RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS An award given by Yad Vashem in the name of the State of Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives, or in the case of diplomats, their careers, to help Jews during the Holocaust. Approximately 23,000 "Righteous Among the Nations" have been recognized so far. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

SA (abbreviation: *Sturmabteilung*); the storm troops of the early Nazi party; organized in 1921. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

SANITARIUM A sanitarium is a medical facility for long-term illness.

SCAPEGOAT To blame an individual or group for something based on that person or group's identity when, in reality, the person or group is not responsible. Prejudicial thinking and discriminatory acts can lead to scapegoating. The individual or group blamed is the "scapegoat." (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

SCANDINAVIA Scandinavia is a historical cultural-linguistic region in Northern Europe characterized by a common ethno-cultural Germanic heritage and related languages that includes the three kingdoms of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

SOCIALISM A theory or system of social organization that advocates the ownership and control of land, capital, industry, etc. by the community as a whole. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah

Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

SOVIET UNION Short for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was the single-party state governed by the Communist Party in Russia and surrounding countries between the years 1922 and 1991

STEREOTYPE An oversimplified generalization about a person or group of people without regard for individual differences. Even seemingly positive stereotypes that link a person or group to a specific positive trait can have negative consequences. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

SELECTION Euphemism for the process of choosing victims for the gas chambers in the Nazi camps by separating them from those considered fit to work. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

SOBIBOR Death camp in the Lublin district in Eastern Poland. Sobibor opened in May 1942 and closed one day after a rebellion of the Jewish prisoners on October 14, 1943. (St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)

SS Abbreviation usually written with two lightning symbols for *Schutzstaffeln* (Defense Protective Units). Originally organized as Hitler's personal bodyguard, the SS was transformed into a giant organization by Heinrich Himmler. Although various SS units were assigned to the battlefield, the organization is best known for carrying out the destruction of European Jewry. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

SS ST. LOUIS The steamship St. Louis was a refugee ship that left Hamburg in the spring of 1939, bound for Cuba. Cuba refused entry to most of its Jewish passengers. No country, including the United States, was willing to accept them. The ship finally returned to Europe where most of the refugees were finally granted entry into England, Holland, France and Belgium. Many of its passengers died in Nazi concentration camps after occupation of Holland, France and Belgium. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

SWASTIKA An ancient Eastern symbol appropriated by the Nazis as their emblem. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

TOTALITARIAN A radical dictatorship or doctrine in which one political party or group maintains complete control, down to the level of the intimate details of an individual life. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

TRANSIT CAMP Transit camps served as temporary way stations in the deportation process. Jews in Nazi-occupied lands often were first deported to transit camps such as Westerbork in the Netherlands, or Drancy in France, en route to the killing centers in occupied Poland. The transit camps were usually the last stop before deportation to an extermination camp.

TREBLINKA An extermination camp located in Poland. By November 1943, approximately 870,000 Jews, many from Warsaw, were murdered in Treblinka. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation

Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

TYPHUS A disease that spread rampantly in ghettos and camps, due to the lack of medicines to treat the disease or supplies to maintain sanitary conditions. As a result, thousands died slow and agonizing deaths. This deliberate neglect corresponded with the German policy to cause the deaths of large numbers of Jews through over-crowded, squalid living conditions and a lack of reasonable medical care. This policy of neglect was not without its consequences for the German occupiers. Although the typhus outbreaks were at their worst in the ghettos and labor camps, the disease (contrary to Nazi theories of “race”) also spread to German personnel. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

TYRANNY A government in which a single ruler is vested with absolute power or control through the use of threats and violence. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

TEREZIN (Czech) / THERESIENSTADT (German) Established in early 1942 outside Prague as a “model” Jewish ghetto, governed and guarded by the SS. The Nazis used Terezin to deceive public opinion. They tolerated a lively cultural life of theater, music, lectures, and art in order to have it shown to officials of the International Red Cross. About 88,000 Jewish inmates of Terezin were deported to their deaths in the East. In April 1945, only 17,000 Jews remained in Terezin, where they were joined by 14,000 Jewish concentration camp prisoners, evacuated from camps threatened by the Allied armies. On May 8, 1945, Terezin was liberated by the Red Army. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

TOLERANCE The ability to endure pain or hardship; an acceptance or patience with the beliefs, opinions or practices of others; a lack of bigotry.

UMSCHLAGPLATZ (German) Collection point. It was a square in the Warsaw Ghetto where Jews were rounded up for deportation to Treblinka. (The Simon Wiesenthal Center)

WANNSEE CONFERENCE A conference held on January 20, 1942 beside Lake Wannsee in Berlin. At this conference, the apparatus was coordinated to carry out the total annihilation of European Jews. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

WARSAW GHETTO (POLAND) Established in November 1940, the ghetto was surrounded by a wall and contained approximately 450,000 Jews. About 45,000 Jews died there in 1941 alone, as a result of overcrowding, hard labor, poor sanitation, insufficient food, starvation, and disease. All told, one out of five ghetto residents died in the ghetto itself. During 1942, most of the ghetto residents were deported to Treblinka, leaving about 60,000 Jews in the ghetto until it was liquidated in May 1943. (Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005)

WESTERBORK Westerbork was a transit camp in the northeast of The Netherlands. The transit camp operated from 1942 to 1944 with the assistance of the Dutch military police and the SS. Deportation trains left the camp every Tuesday from July of 1942 to September of 1944, deporting a

total of 97,776 Jews. More than half of those deported from Westerbork went to Auschwitz where they were most likely killed upon arrival. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

YELLOW STAR The six-pointed Star of David made of yellow cloth and sewn to the clothing of European Jews. See also “Jewish badge”. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014)

YIDDISH Yiddish is a High German language of Jewish origin, spoken in many parts of the world. It developed as a fusion of Hebrew and Aramaic into German dialects with the infusion of Slavic and traces of Romance languages. It is written in the Hebrew alphabet.

ZLOTY The zloty, which literally means "golden", is the currency of Poland